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is shown by a statement from the author's preface: "Besides the four editions of the original Dutch volume and three in English, seven editions of this book have been published in German, two in Russian, two in Italian, and one in Polish. A French edition and a Japanese edition are also in preparation.' A second quotation from the preface gives the aim of the book, which is well carried out, and it gives the text its great value as a general reference book' for students of physiology. "Most of the short textbooks of organic chemistry contain a great number of isolated facts; the number of compounds described in them is so considerable as to confuse the beginner. Moreover, the theoretical grounds on which this division of the science is based are often kept in the background; for example, the proofs given of the constitutional formulae frequently leave much to be desired. However useful these books may be for reference, they are often ill-suited for textbooks, as many students have learned from their own experience."

The chapters on sugars, amino acids, and proteins, of the greatest direct interest to physiologists, though brief, are certainly clear statements of the fundamental facts of the chemistry of these bodies. The chapter on proteins is in the body of the book just after amino acids, instead of in an appendix, as it appeared in the second edition. WALKER is credited with having introduced into the book the protein classification adopted by the Chemical Society of London, the English Physiological Society, the American Physiological Society, and the American Society of Biological Chemistry.—WILLIAM CROCKER.

NOTES FOR STUDENTS

Magazines for students of genetics.—The era of experimental study in heredity and evolution has called for new publications devoted to the results of research in this field. While all the biological journals occasionally contain articles which are of interest to the student of experimental evolution, several special magazines have been established which are quite indispensable to anyone who wishes to keep reasonably well informed regarding current progress in genetics and related subjects.

The first of these which deserves mention is *Biometrika*, which was established in London in 1901 under the editorship of Professor KARL PEARSON, for the publication of papers on mathematical methods of dealing with variation, heredity, selection, etc., and the results of their application. While not many of the articles published in *Biometrika* deal strictly with genetics, it was the first journal to voice the demands for more exact methods of investigating problems of evolution, and as the whole trend of modern biology is toward the greater exactness involved in mathematical treatment of biological data, *Biometrika* should continue to fill an increasingly important place, notwithstanding the unfortunate fact that there is a tendency of late to allow personal feeling to dominate both the policy of the magazine and the attitude of many prominent students of genetics toward it and the methods it advocates.

The second magazine which is devoted specifically to evolution and related subjects is the *Archiv für Rassen- und Gesellschafts-Biologie*, edited and published in München by Dr. A. PLOETZ, assisted by Dr. L. PLATE and several others. This magazine was established in 1904, just at the time when interest in evolution was being revived by the general introduction of the new methods. It is not wholly occupied with the results of experimentation, but contains besides these many philosophical and more or less academic discussions, which give it the flavor of transition from the older evolutionary literature of the post-Darwinian writers to the new type of literature introduced and exemplified by the work of DE VRIES and MENDEL.

In 1908 a new monthly German magazine entitled *Zeitschrift für Induktive Abstammungs- und Vererbungslehre* was established in Berlin under the editorship of Dr. E. BAUR, assisted by Drs. CORRENS, HECKER, STEINMANN, and WETTSTEIN. This magazine is at the present time the most valuable of all similar journals, as it offers in excellent form a large volume of original matter, adequate abstracts from a large proportion of the papers on the same subjects published in other journals, and finally gives a very complete classified list of new literature dealing with the same subjects. This journal is absolutely indispensable to all who wish to investigate problems of heredity, variation, and evolution.

In October 1909 a journal first made its appearance in London entitled the *Mendel Journal*, which is unique in a number of particulars. In the first place, its editorship is entirely anonymous, though many internal evidences leave little doubt as to the source of the dominating influence. It seems to be in a sense the organ of the Mendel Society of London, as it publishes the various addresses made before that body. While this journal has a number of interesting papers which supply valuable data, especially on human inheritance, its whole attitude is one much to be regretted. The express object of the magazine is to furnish a *propaganda* for Mendelism. It represents the "Mendelians" as an army which is fighting an opposing army, the "Biometricians," and makes many unwarranted slurring attacks upon Professor PEARSON and those who have assisted him in working out the biometrical methods of dealing with biological data. No true scientist can fail to deprecate the introduction of propagandism and personal enmity into science. It may be expected that the publication of such a journal will act as a boomerang, and will do the cause of Mendelian investigation a distinct injury. The aim should be simply to arrive at the truth and not to adopt and establish a creed to be forced upon others who cannot be convinced of the truth by the data presented. Like *Biometrika*, the *Mendel Journal* has no regular periodicity, but its appearance is promised whenever sufficient material is at hand.

In America the demand for journals dealing with genetics has brought a most satisfactory response from the *American Naturalist*, which about two years ago, under the editorship of Dr. J. McK. CATTELL, adopted as a general policy a specialization upon evolutionary topics. The American Society of Naturalists chose for itself the same field, and the *American Naturalist* is in a certain sense the organ of that society.

The last arrival in the field is the new magazine issued by the American Breeders' Association, and known as the *American Breeders' Magazine*, published in Washington under the editorship of the secretary of the Association, W. M. HAYS, assisted by the secretaries of the Plant and Animal Sections, N. E. HANSEN and H. W. MUMFORD. The first issue of this magazine has just appeared, and gives every evidence of its intention to take a dignified place among economic journals, and a modest and unassuming place among scientific magazines, thus correctly representing the unique position of the Association whose organ it is. The *American Breeders' Magazine* is being issued as a quarterly, but it is hoped by those who have it in charge that it may soon be changed to a monthly magazine. The opening number presents as a frontispiece a portrait of CHARLES DARWIN, and also gives portraits of GREGOR MENDEL and AMOS CRUIKSHANK, the latter the originator of the shorthorn cattle, and said to be the first to utilize fully the discovery of a mutation in the establishing of an important economic breed. Besides brief biographical sketches of these three men, this first issue presents papers on "Increasing protein or fat in corn," by L. H. SMITH; "New methods of plant-breeding," by GEORGE W. OLIVER; "The army horse," by CARLOS GUERRERO; "Imperfection of dominance," by C. B. DAVENPORT; "Poultry-breeding in South Australia," by D. F. LOWREY; and several articles on the breeding of deer and other wild animals by D. E. LANCE and other members of the committee on breeding wild animals. As it is the plan of the American Breeders' Association to continue the publication of its *Year Book*, the issue of this magazine will make it even more important that all those who are engaged in investigation or who are interested in matters involving genetics should become members of the Association and thus secure its publications.—GEO. H. SHULL.

Respiration.—PALLADIN[5] has tested the effect of several poisons on the CO_2 output from living plant organs and from similar tissues that have been killed by freezing for several hours. He finds that 0.09 per cent quinine hydrogen chlorid more than triples the CO_2 output from living stem tips of *Vicia Faba*, while it does not affect the killed ones; 0.05 per cent was far less effective on the living tissue and indifferent in the dead; and 1.0 per cent tripled the product from the living and reduced it markedly in the dead tissue. In the living bulbs of *Gladiolus Lemonia*, 8 cc. of ether per 7.5 liters of air

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[5] PALLADIN, W., Ueber die Wirkung von Giften auf die Atmung lebender und abgetöteter Pflanzen, sowie auf Atmungenzyme. Jahrb. Wiss. Bot. 47:431–461. 1910.